

Workingmen's Houses,
Michael Fenton House
375 South Locust Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-M

HABS
10WA,
31-DUBU,
14-M-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Site Location: 375 South Locust Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 2.3
Cadastral grid: SE1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691970.4706260
Lot dimensions: 27' x 100': .06 acre
Lot description: Lot 2 of Lot 9; North 15' of
Lot 1 of Lot 10; South 12' of
Lot 1 of Lot 10 of Levi's
Addition

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation
Present Usage: vacant
Present Condition: fair

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 22'3"x 16'4"; front porch: 21'3"x 5';
rear addition: 18'7"x 6'9".

Orientation: east

Architectural Plan type: I house with one-story offset rear wing.

Description: Foundation: parged stone perimeter walls.

Structure: wood frame

Ext. walls: moderate exposure wood beveled siding with
plain corner boards.

Roofs: asphalt shingled, steeply pitched side gable on
house; asphalt shingled hipped roof over porch;
shallow shed roof over rear addition.

Chimneys: one centrally placed brick interior chimney,
centered on the ridge of the main block.

Dormers: none

Windows: painted wood 2/2 double-hung sash with aluminum
storms, plain casings, slip sills; 2-light
fixed sash windows on the front porch.

Openings: single-leaf front door, centered on porch;
1-light cross paneled door on first story; door
in crawl space under porch.

Porches: 1-story, semi-enclosed, full-width front porch;
all three sides of porch are composed of remov-
able 2 light windows that are triple banked;
porch apron sheathed with beveled siding.

Details: boxed and molded cornices on main block and
porch roofs; small scroll-sawn brackets under
hipped porch roof; diagonally placed wood
latticework surrounding porch crawl space.

Construction Date : 1872

Architecture Style: Side gabled box

Physical History : In 1872 Michael Fenton contracted with Dubuque builder John McCoy to construct this two-story frame house on the west side of Southern Avenue (now South Locust Street) for \$350. The lot on which it was built was part of a subdivision platted earlier in the decade by Dubuque capitalist Alexander Levi. Fenton did not acquire title to the property until 1876, indicating that the house had been built on leased land. A laborer, he lived here with his wife Mary until sometime before 1899. At that time Bridgett Burke occupied the house, and about 1913 John P. Corbett moved in with Burke. By 1918 Corbett occupied the house without Burke. The Corbett family owned the property until selling it in 1984 to the Iowa Department of Transportation for demolition. Throughout this extended occupation, the building has retained a high degree of architectural integrity.

Significance: With its side-gabled configuration, the Michael Fenton House is a representative example of the workingmen's houses built along Southern Avenue at the periphery of Dubuque in the 1870s and 1880s.

References: Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1891, 1909, 1972.
Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-2-19.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Dubuque Daily Herald: 24 November 1872.
Dubuque Daily Times: 23 November 1872.

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